

THE BIG QUESTION -- WHO'S EXCITED?

Is alarm or apathy the dominant mood in the United States? That is the number one unanswered question as the new year moves into its second month. On answer may literally depend, as Prof. Rabi warns, the continued existence of major part of the globe.

The attempt to find the answer threatens to turn peace workers into manic-depressives. There is convincing evidence on both sides. Scientists are showing apprehension, and a determination to communicate it, reminiscent of the early days after Hiroshima. More than 9,000 of them from 44 countries signed a

statement distributed by American Nobel Prize winner Linus Pauling, and individual scientists of stature, such as Dr. Rabi (see box), are joining the warning chorus.

Among peace groups, the feeling of urgency is indicated by the multiplying suggestions for joint action. American pacifist groups have already coordinated their efforts. Representatives of both pacifist and non-pacifist peace groups will meet in New York on February 6 to discuss a British proposal for an international conference.

The Japan Council Against A- and H-bombs, demonstrating awareness of criticisms of Communist influence, has called for a fourth international conference next August, outside Japan and "in a completely independent position politically."

But the evidence on the apathy, or going-with-the-government, side is at least as strong. Most public figures accept without question the "necessity" for more money for arms, more emphasis on missiles, more science in education. The National Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy, which has attracted to it a number of Big Names, is announcing in full-page ads that "we are facing a danger unlike any danger that has ever existed," could not quite bring it to call unequivocally for even the unilateral cessation of tests. And though it appeared in 80 newspapers by mid-January only 2500 responses had come in—mainly no sign of great public concern.

Encouraging also was the response to much more forthright ad published in

(Continued on next page)

Our Uneasy Scientists

"Each nuclear bomb test spreads an added burden of radioactive elements over every part of the world. Each added amount of radiation causes damage to the pool of human germ plasma such as to lead to an increase in the number of seriously defective children that will be born in future generations..."

"We have in common with our fellow men a deep concern for the welfare of all human beings. As scientists we have knowledge of the dangers involved and therefore a special responsibility to make those dangers known. We deem it imperative that immediate action be taken to effect an international agreement to stop the testing of all nuclear weapons."

—From a statement signed by 9,235 scientists from 44 countries, including 36 Nobel Prize winners.

"There is no question that we are facing the severest problem humanity has had to face at any time. We have to solve the problem of living together on this planet or we won't live. By we, I mean the major part of the globe, the United States, Russia and other nations. The end of our national existence is in sight unless we solve this problem."

—Dr. I. I. Rabi, Higgins Professor of Physics, Columbia University and one of nation's chief scientific advisers.

Fellowship

PEACE INFORMATION EDITION

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Who's Excited? (cont'd)

the *New York Times* Sunday edition (circ. 750,000). It got only 245 replies. Still another half-page ad appeared in the *Times* on January 23, reproducing letters to President Eisenhower and Premier Bulganin over the signatures of Corliss and Margaret Lamont, and calling on each to "stop further tests...on a unilateral basis."

What happens now probably will depend, as it always does, on the individual peace-makers all over the country. If they take up the cause in their own communities and campuses, distributing literature, getting petitions signed, organizing discussion meetings and prayer vigils and demonstrations, the public may arouse itself before it is too late. That seems to be the best hope there is.

Peace Groups Mobilize Bomb Test Opposition

Leading American pacifist and peace groups, working through the Consultative Peace Council, have agreed to coordinate their efforts to arouse public opinion against continued tests of nuclear weapons and for moves to complete disarmament.

The organizations, which include groups representing the three historic peace churches, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, the War Resisters League, and the FOR, each accepted or reported on individual responsibilities in the overall-all effort.

Focus of work locally and nationally will be a Declaration of Peace, which will be available in card form for signatures, and in poster form for use in churches, schools and elsewhere. The Declaration is

being sponsored by groups abroad as well as in this country. It will give individuals a chance to express their own peaceful intentions toward other countries. Signed Declarations will be returned to the sponsoring organizations for forwarding to Dag Hammarskjöld, Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Fellowship responsibility in the joint effort includes the preparation of the Declaration, production and publication of printed materials, including advertisements for use in daily and weekly newspapers and the full time of a staff member to stimulate action in communities around the country. Charles Walker, who has been released temporarily from his post as Mid-Atlantic secretary, will spend February helping groups of pacifists to get community efforts started.

NVA Ship Protest

Meanwhile the Committee for Nonviolent Action Against Nuclear Tests (NVAANT) announced the sailing of a ketch named "Golden Rule" (see next page) into the Pacific Test area, and weighed plans for carrying the protest to the Soviet Union as well.

The Committee's national chairman, George Willoughby, who is executive secretary of the CCCO and a member of the FOR Executive Committee, disclosed that the ship project requires a budget of \$31,000, which is still to be raised.

Briefly Noted

FOR members Mr. and Mrs. Ray Olds, Yellow Springs, Ohio, had their \$9,000 home seized by U. S. tax officials last month for non-payment of \$159.68 federal income tax. In 1956 the Olds' lost their truck in the same way. They have refused to pay taxes since 1949 as a protest against the use of federal funds for military purposes.

Rev. Theodore Olson, FOR member, gave up his pulpit to work in the Washington Prayer and Conscience Vigil last November. He is seeking associates in a direct-action protest against the building of a Warren Force Base in Wyoming. He can be reached at Box 341, Fallsington, Pa.

Harry Golden, editor of *The Carolinian*, a raelite, reports that former Senator Frank Graham, now UN Mediator in the Indo-

kistan dispute, spoke recently to the student body of Harding High School in Charlotte, N. C. Dr. Graham, who was born in Charlotte, told the students the effect around the world when 15-year old Negro Dorothy

Counts was forced to leave the school because of the violence and abuse heaped on her. When he urged the (all white) students to invite Dorothy Counts to return to Harding, they "rose spontaneously and cheered."

LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT

Four pacifists plan to sail a thirty-foot ketch, "Golden Rule," out of San Pedro (Los Angeles) harbor on February 9, on their way to the area in which the United States intends to conduct nuclear tests in April, and from which all shipping has been warned away. This is the letter by which the Golden Rule's sponsors and crew apprised President Eisenhower of their action.

Dear President Eisenhower:

We write to tell you of our intended action regarding the announced spring test explosions of American nuclear weapons.

Four of us, with the support of many others, plan to sail a small vessel into the designated area in the Pacific by April 1st. We intend, come what may, to remain there during the test period, in an effort to halt what we feel is the monstrous delinquency of our government in continuing actions which threaten the well-being of all men. We recognize the equal guilt of Russian authorities in this matter and plan parallel action to carry the same moral and political message to them.

You will find enclosed a statement of our reasons and the facts of our project. We are sensitive to the great responsibility you bear and assure you that there will be no deception in our effort. All action will be taken openly and trustingly in the Gandhian spirit of a nonviolent attempt to effect needed change by speaking to the best in all men.

For years we have spoken and written of the suicidal military preparations of the Great Powers, but our voices have been lost in the massive effort of those responsible for preparing this country for war. We mean to speak now with the weight of our whole lives. By our effort in the Pacific we mean to say to all men, "We are here because stopping preparation for nuclear war is now the principal business of our lives; it is also the principal requirement for the continuation of human life. It is a task in which we would have our nation lead." We, by our action, would be asking our fellow citizens to accept the lesser dangers and the greater opportunity that such an approach implies.

We hope our presence in the test area will speak to that which is deepest in you and in all men: that all men are capable of love.

Please consider us,

Sincerely, your friends,

For Nonviolent Action Against
Nuclear Weapons
George Willoughby, Chairman
Lawrence Scott, Coordinator

For crew of the ketch,
"Golden Rule"
Albert Bigelow
William Huntington

THE FELLOWSHIP IN ACTION

FOR's new "comic book," *Martin Luther King and the Montgomery Story*, after many delays, should be finished when you get this issue. It is being serialized in the *British Peace News*, starting with Jan. 17 issue. Suggestions for distribution are available from Nyack headquarters on request.

The FOR Committee to Aid the Bombed Christians of the South in January sent \$1,000 to churches in Montgomery, Alabama; \$500 to a church in Tallahassee, Florida. New appeal to churches going out this month.

During India speaking tour of American FOR-member Rev. A. B. Parson, Vinoba Bhave, India's "walking saint," said: "Sarvodaya (his headquarters-ashram) is the fruit of FOR."

Members cast 848 ballots (about 6% of membership) for National Council members. Elected were M. Forest Ashbrook, James Best, S. F. Boden, Richard Chartier, A. Stauffer Curry, Alfred G. Fisk, Mrs. B. W. Hamilton, Wilson Head, Charles Lawrence, Harold O. Massie, John Oliver Nelson, Culbert G. Rutenber and Lawrence Scott.

New FOR publications: paperback editions of Hassler's *Diary of a Self-Made Convict* (\$1.50, now available), and Rutenber's *The Dagger and the Cross* (\$1.50, coming soon).

REGIONAL and LOCAL

New England FOR reports considerable interest in mimeographed program on conscientious objection it makes available to churches. Write Bob Gussner for sample.

Midwest Regional Committee is urging all areas to observe a "Fellowship Day" when members can get together for fellowship and inspiration, on May 9. Other regions take note.

Dates to Remember

Reconciliation Team (Smiley, Lawson, A. Bernathy).

From Feb. 1, at 2006 Grand Ave., Nashville, Tenn., c/o Smiley, Feb. 9, Springfield, 1 Feb. 16, Union, Ohio; Feb. 26-8, Durham, N. C.; March, South Carolina.

Feb. 8-9. FOR All-Seminary conference, Shadowcliff, Nyack, N.Y.

Feb. 15. Philadelphia FOR plans renewed "vigil" at City Hall, 2-4.30 p.m. Meet at FOR office, 2006 Walnut, at 1.15.

Feb. 19-22. AFSC High School seminar *The Dynamics of Nonviolence*, Pendle Hill, Pa.

FELLOWSHIP

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